

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SAM-01 DRC-01 /108 W

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R 280820Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1980

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1165

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TC, IR

SUBJECT: SHAIKH ZAYID'S TRIP

REF: (A) TEHRAN 7176 (B) RABAT 4075

1. WHILE LEAVING THE OVERALL ANALYSIS OF MOTIVES BEHIND SHAIKH ZAYID'S TRIP TO NORTH AFRICA AND SAUDI ARABIA TO DEPT (AS REQUESTED REF A), IT IS MY IMPRESSION FROM BRIEF DISCUSSIONS OF VISIT WITH MIN STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SAIF GHUBBASH, AND MFA DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, GHANEM AL-MAZROIE (BOTH OF WHOM TRAVELED WITH PARTY) THAT FROM UAE POINT OF VIEW TRIP WAS LARGELY CEREMONIAL AS ONE OF SHOWING UAE FLAG IN NUMBER ARAB COUNTRIES. THERE WERE OBVIOUS EXCEPTIONS TO THAT THEME (I.E. PEACEMAKING BETWEEN LIBYA AND EGYPT IN CAIRO AND SIGNING OF BORDER AGREEMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA), BUT ACCORDING TO GHUBBASH MOST OF OTHER STOPS IN NORTH AFRICA WERE FIRSTS ON BILATERAL BASIS FOR ZAYID AS UAE HEAD OF STATE (HE HAD BEEN TO ALGERIA FOR REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND TO MOROCCO PRIOR TO FORMATION OF UAE). OBVIOUSLY FROM STANDPOINT RECEIVING STATES, MOTIVES MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT BROADER, INCLUDING HOPES BEING BENEFICIARIES OF SHAIKH ZAYID'S GENEROSITY.

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2. AS FOR MENTIONS OF THE GULF, IT WOULD SEEM TO US
TO BE NATURAL SUBJECT FOR ANY COMMUNIQUE. AND WHILE
WE CAN APPRECIATE SHAH'S SENSITIVITIES, IT HARD TO IMAGINE
TWO ARAB STATES REFERRING TO THAT BODY OF WATER IN ANY
MANNER OTHER THAN "ARAB GULF." IN SHORT FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE,
WE BELIEVE THAT OI SEEING FAR MORE IN THIS THAN WARRANTED.
PEALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABUDH01165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740237-1053
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740813/aaaaaknb.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) TEHRAN 7176 (B) RABAT 4075
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHAIKH ZAYID'S TRIP
TAGS: PFOR, TC, IR, (ZAYID, IBN SULTAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005